



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Section of Environmental Analysis
Port MacKenzie Rail Extension Project
Environmental Impact Statement

EI-7095

DRAFT SCOPE OF STUDY COMMENT FORM

How Do I Submit Comments?

- **Written Comments:** Complete and submit this form at a public meeting, or mail your comments to the Surface Transportation Board's address at the bottom of this page.
- **Recorded Comments:** Provide your comments to a court reporter at a public meeting.
- **Electronic Comments:** Submit electronic comments by visiting the Surface Transportation Board's website, www.stb.dot.gov, under the heading "E-Filing."

Please refer to STB Finance Docket No. 35095 in all correspondence addressed to the Surface Transportation Board. Comment deadline is: March 21, 2008

Please see attached resolution adopted by the Willow Dog Mishers Assoc on Oct. 24, 2007 concerning the proposed Willow Corridor 3.

Name Erin McLarnon
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Phone 907-495-0671
Email erin-purpe@alaska.com

Comments may be submitted today or mailed to:

David Navecky
STB Finance Docket No. 35095
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423

WILLOW DOG MUSHERS ASSOCIATION
Willow, Alaska

RESOLUTION NO. 07-10-01

**A RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE PORT MACKENZIE RAILROAD EXTENSION PROJECT-
WILLOW/CORRIDOR 3**

WHEREAS, the Willow Dog Musher's Association is a recognized State of Alaska non-profit organization formed to protect and preserve the dog musher's way of life for today, tomorrow and future generations as well as to protect and preserve our historical trails and Willow's vital mushing habitat, and

WHEREAS, the health of Willow dog mushing is significantly tied to a rural, and open recreational environment within our three historical trail systems (West Gateway, Haessler-Norris and Emil-Stancec), our parks, rivers, and our wetlands, and

WHEREAS, Willow is home to the West Gateway Trail system, a world class trail system, which utilized by mushers and other types of winter recreationalists such as but not limited to snowmachiners, skiers, and hikers, and

WHEREAS, Willow's economy is based on these many recreational opportunities, and

WHEREAS, the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race is Alaska's most important winter event which supports dozens of local mushers and attracts thousands of fans from around the world, which has started six (6) of their past eight (8) races in Willow utilizing the West Gateway Trail System, and

WHEREAS, the Port Mackenzie Rail Extension Project-Willow/Corridor 3 crosses the West Gateway Trail System in over ten (10) locations that have easement protection, which divides the existing historical trail system, as well as crosses through miles of wetlands commonly used by mushers and other winter recreationalists, crosses through Willow Creek State Park and Recreation Area, and crosses Willow Creek as well as several other small anadromous fish streams, and

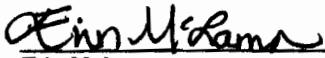
WHEREAS, the alternative corridors south of Willow are shorter, cross fewer trails, harm less wetlands and meet the needs of the Rail Extension project, and

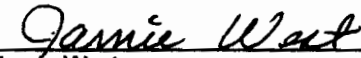
WHEREAS, the Willow Dog Musher's Association had representatives attend the Port Mackenzie Rail Extension Project Open Houses held the first week of October in Wasilla, Big Lake, Willow, Knik and Houston, and hosted a Port Mackenzie Rail Extension Public Forum in Willow, Alaska on October 24th, 2007 that was attended by representatives of the Mat-Su Borough, the Alaska Railroad Corporation, our members, and the Willow community.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Membership of the Willow Dog Musher's Association opposes Willow/Corridor 3 as an acceptable route for the Port Mackenzie Rail Extension.

CERTIFICATION:

The foregoing resolution was passed and approved by a duly convened meeting of the Willow Dog Musher's Association this 24 Day of October, 2007, by a unanimous vote.


Erin McLamon
President


Jamie West
Secretary